

**Amendment to the Specification**

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows:

[0013] In contrast to methods of the prior art, a first determination of the activity of the AT binding partner occurs in the method according to the invention under conditions where AT present in the sample cannot, or can only to a slight extent, complex the binding partner and inhibit its activity. Hence it is expedient to carry out the first determination in the absence of substances such as heparin which accelerate complex formation between AT and AT binding partner. Antagonists for the accelerator such as heparin antagonists, e.g., **polybrene** **POLYBRENE (hexadimethrine bromide)**, can be optionally added in small amounts. The addition of heparin antagonists is especially expedient when a patient has been previously treated with heparin such that a (low) heparin concentration present in the sample leads to an undesired acceleration of the complex formation between AT and AT binding partner. The addition of antagonists can at least partially prevent this undesired acceleration.